

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
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SUBJECT: SWEDISH PARLIAMENT APPROVES AID APPROPRIATIONS FOR
FY 1978/79

REF: STOCKHOLM A-10

1. THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT DEBATED THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1978/79 ON APRIL 12 AND
APPROVED THE AMOUNTS REQUESTED (SEE REFAIR) WITHOUT CHANGE.

2. THE MAJOR SUBJECTS OF CONTENTION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND
OPPOSITION SPOKESMEN WERE, AS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS,
ASSISTANCE TO CUBA, VIETNAM, AND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN
AFRICA, AND THE GROWING AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE BEING TIED.

3. IN SPITE OF THESE DIFFERENCES, AID MINISTER OLA ULLSTEN
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SAID THERE WAS GRATIFYING SUPPORT IN THE PARLIAMENT FOR
WHAT HE CALLED "A GOOD AND PROGRESSIVE AID POLICY." "WE ARE
SETTING ASIDE MORE THAN ONE PERCENT OF OUR CONSOLIDATED
RESOURCES FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATION,"
HE SAID. "WE ARE WRITING OFF ALL AID LOANS TO THE
POOREST LDCS, AND WE ARE FURTHER EXPANDING OUR SUPPORT
OF THE FIGHT FOR LIBERATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA."

MINISTER ULLSTEN NOTED THAT THE INDUSTRIALIZED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY DEPENDENT ON ONE ANOTHER IN THE MESH OF THE WORLD ECONOMY AND THAT WAYS MUST BE FOUND TO UTILIZE WORLD RESOURCES IN A MANNER WHICH CAN PROVIDE TOLERABLE LIVING CONDITIONS FOR ALL PEOPLE. "THERE IS SOMETHING BASICALLY WRONG IN A WORLD ECONOMY IN WHICH, ON THE ONE HAND, WE HAVE MACHINES RUNNING AT HALF SPEED AND TENS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE OUT OF WORK, AND, ON THE OTHER, THE PRACTICALLY UNLIMITED NEED FOR SCHOOLS, HOUSING, MACHINES, VEHICLES, TOOLS AND MUCH MORE IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IT IS IN THE LIGHT OF THIS THAT WE MUST NOW STUDY WAYS OF ACHIEVING MASSIVE TRANSFERS OF RESOURCES TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SO THAT THEIR CENTRAL NEEDS CAN BE MET AT THE SAME TIME AS THE ECONOMIES OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES ARE STIMULATED," MINISTER ULLSTEN SAID.

4. TURNING TO PROBLEMS IN RHODESIA, NAMIBIA, AND SOUTH AFRICA, ULLSTEN STRESSED THAT WORLD OPINION MUST NOT REMAIN PASSIVE AND INDIFFERENT: "WE ARE AFFECTED WHEREVER PEOPLE ARE DENIED THEIR LIBERT. THIS IS WHY WE ARE INCREASING OUR SUPPORT OF THE VICTIMS OF APARTHEID IN AND OUTSIDE SOUTH AFRICA, WHY WE ARE HELPING SURROUNDING COUNTRIES RECEIVE AN EVERY INCREASING STREAM OF REFUGEES FROM SOUTH AFRICA, NAMIBIA, AND RHODESIA, AND WHY WE ARE SUPPORTING LIBERATION MOV-
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MENTS IN THEIR NON-MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND EXPANDING OUR LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION WITH THE FREE NATIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA." MINISTER ULLSTEN POINTED OUT THAT MOST OF THE INCREASES IN SWEDEN'S DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO ITS MAJOR RECIPIENTS NEXT YEAR WILL BE GOING TO THE FRONT-LINE STATES.

5. ULLSTEN ANNOUNCED DURING THE DEBATE THAT THE

SWEDISH GOVERNMENT WOULD BE APPROPRIATING AN EXTRA SKR FIVE MILLION FOR THE UNHCR'S ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIAN AND SOMALIAN VICTIMS OF THE FIGHTING IN OGADEN PROVINCE, AND AN EXTRA SKR TWO MILLION FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEES THROUGH UNRWA.

6. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC COUNTERMOTION TO THE GOVERNMENT'S BILL CALLED FOR SKR 50 MILLION MORE TO THE FRONT-LINE STATES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, SKR 20 MILLION MORE TO THE UNCDF, SWEDISH WITHDRAWAL FROM THE IDB, AND AN INCREASE IN THE APPROPRIATION TO CUBA FROM SKR 30 TO 70 MILLION. THE COMMUNIST (VPK) PARTY WANTED TO SEE A PHASING-OUT OF ASSISTANCE TO INDIA, BANGLADESH,

ZAMBIA, KENYA, SRI LANKA, LESOTHO, PAKISTAN, AND TUNISIA, AS THE PARTY DOES NOT BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENTS OF THOSE COUNTRIES PURSUE AN EGALITARIAN POLICY. INSTEAD, THE VPK THOUGHT MORE MONEY SHOULD GO TO "ANTI-IMPERIALIST" MOVEMENTS, REFUGEES IN AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA, AND TO "PROGRESSIVE REGIMES AND SOCIALIST STATES" IN THE THIRD WORLD.

7. THE DEBATE ELICITED LITTLE OR NO EDITORIAL COMMENT IN THE MAJOR SWEDISH NEWSPAPERS. REFERRING TO THE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION THAT DID COME TO LIGHT DURING THE DEBATE, DAGENS NYHETER OF APRIL 15 SAID: "BUT THESE ARE RATHER WEAK IDEOLOGICAL RIPPLES ON THE SURFACE. NOR IS IT EASY, WITH ULLSTEN AS AID
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MINISTER, TO MAKE SWEDEN'S AID POLICY OUT TO BE COOL TOWARD LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND THE CAUSE OF THE OPPRESSED BLACK PEOPLES IN AFRICA. THE REAL DIFFERENCE

THAT EXIST REGARDING AIMS AND MEANS AND METHODS . . . DID NOT STAND OUT IN THIS ROUND OF DISCUSSION. THEY WILL PROBABLY BE AIRED INSTEAD IN SOME WEEKS' TIME WHEN THE PARLIAMENT DEBATES THE COUNTRY'S LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE STRATEGY AND, OF COURSE, THE ONLY REALLY NEW THING OF THE YEAR: A FUND FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE WHICH WILL ENDEAVOR TO PULL PRIVATE ENTERPRISE INTO OUR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE." THE BILL ON AID POLICY AND INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATION WILL BE DEBATED AT THE END OF MAY.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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